

NM
11/17/06
Please replace paragraph 177^{ce} with the following paragraph:

[177]^{ce} Hardware and /or software blanking may be automatically applied based upon the results of applying signal quality control algorithms, such as those described above, to test the reliability of sensor signals. Application of signal quality control may at anytime result in continuous hardware or software blanking of a particular sensor due to artifact. However, signal quality control algorithms may also be applied to any of the sensor channels to determine if the applied therapy (e.g., stimulation) is causing artifacts that require hardware or software blanking during and after application of the therapy. Those sensor channels determined not to be affected by the application of the treatment therapy do not need to be blanked, thus enhancing the ability of the system to monitor the patient. In addition, periodic checking of a sensor channel following a treatment pulse and applying signal quality algorithms can automatically determine the length of time needed for hardware and/or software blanking for that channel during future applications of the therapy. For example, a signal that is associated with an electrode in proximity of a stimulated electrode may be analyzed to have artifact characteristics, including during a time interval in which an artifact affects the signal. Alternatively, parameters of the therapy treatment may be adjusted within a range of values known to be therapeutic in an effort to reduce the effect on the signal quality of adjacent sensors. In this manner the medical device system can enhance its-it's ability to collect data while providing treatment therapy.